

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2006, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, claims 1-9 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 10-14 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-9 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of co-pending application serial number 10/687,143. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 without prejudice and added new claims 10-14. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as being anticipated by co-pending application serial number 10/687,143. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and added new claims 10-14 which are clearly not anticipated by the co-pending reference.

Application exists only if all of the elements of the claimed invention are present in a system or method disclosed, expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. Therefore, if it can be shown that there is one difference between the claimed invention and what is disclosed in the single reference, there can be no anticipation.

In the present invention as claimed, the one or more bridging elements comprise first and second sections configured to create an interlocking

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mechanism between adjacent segments. In the cited reference, the bridging elements do not create the interlocking spaces, rather, the struts create the space. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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